

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-66 (Cancelled).

67. (New) A composition of matter comprising a compound having the formula $(\text{CH}_3)_x\text{Si}_3\text{N}_{(4-x)}$, with x being greater than 0 and no greater than 4.

68. (New) The composition of claim 67 further comprising Si_3N_y , where y is about $4/3$.

69. (New) The composition of claim 67 wherein x is from about 1 to about 4.

70. (New) The composition of claim 67 wherein x is about 0.7.

71. (New) The composition of claim 67 having a concentration of $(\text{CH}_3)_x\text{Si}_3\text{N}_{(4-x)}$ of from greater than 0 mole % to about 20 mole %.

72. (New) A semiconductor barrier layer comprising a compound having the formula $(\text{CH}_3)_x\text{Si}_3\text{N}_{(4-x)}$, with x being greater than 0 and no greater than 4.

73. (New) The semiconductor barrier layer of claim 72 further comprising Si_3N_y , where y is about $4/3$.

74. (New) The semiconductor barrier layer of claim 72 having a concentration of $(\text{CH}_3)_x\text{Si}_3\text{N}_{(4-x)}$ of from greater than 0 mole % to about 20 mole %, wherein x is from about 1 to about 4.